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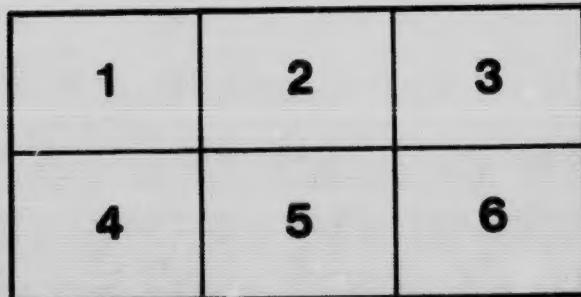
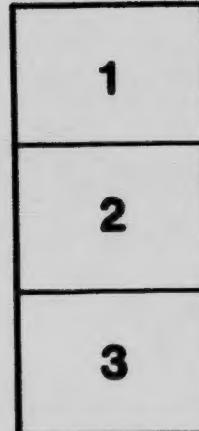
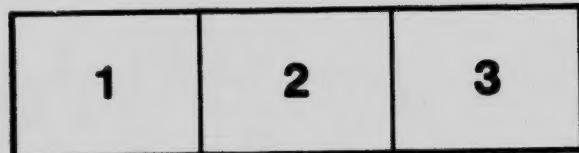
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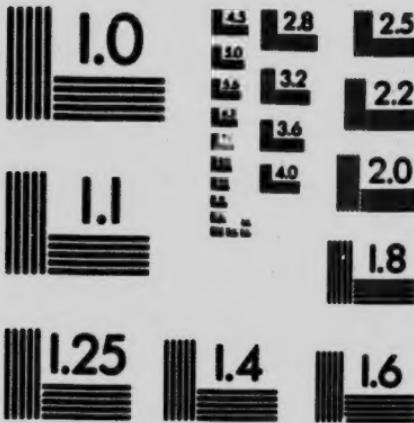
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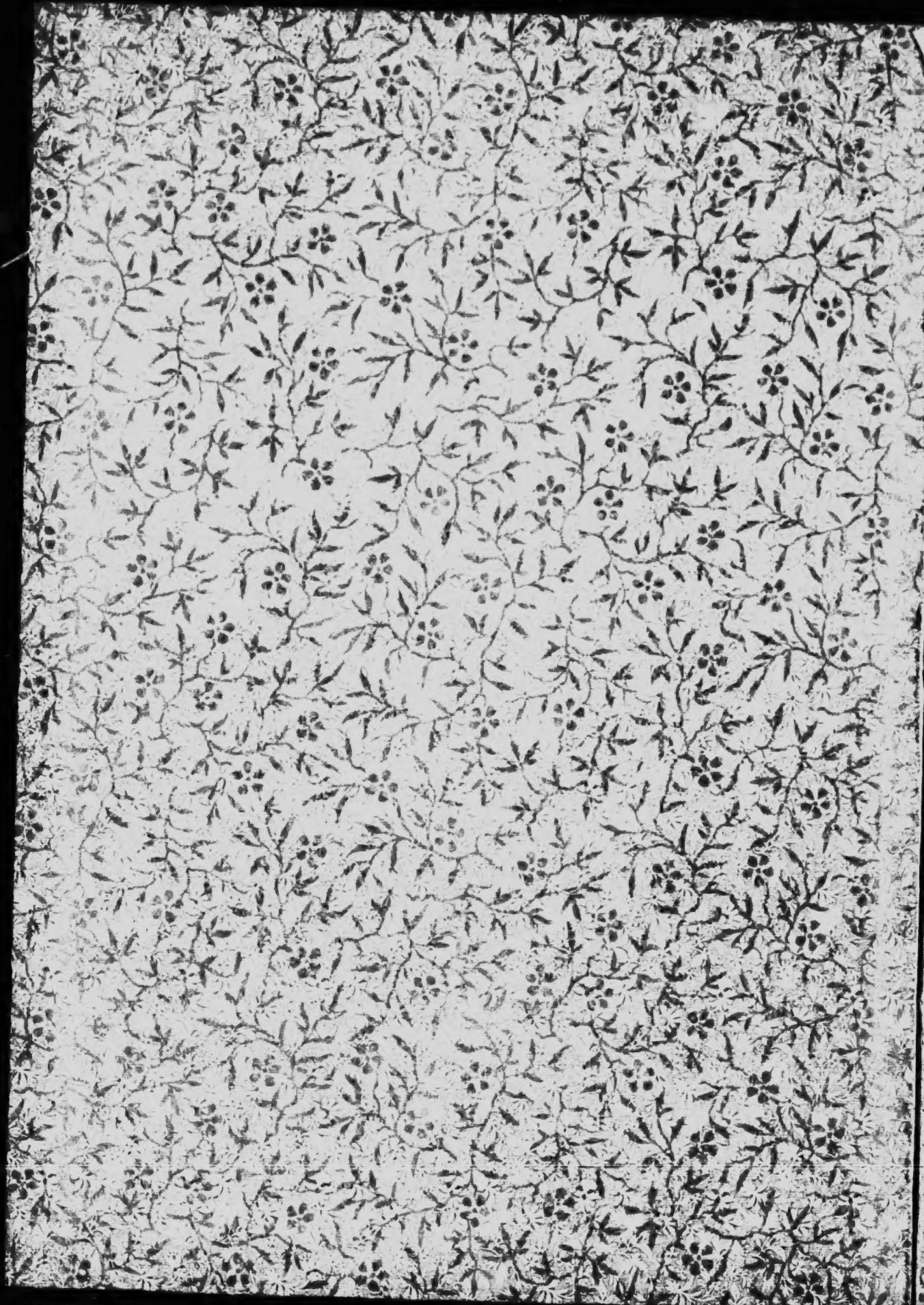
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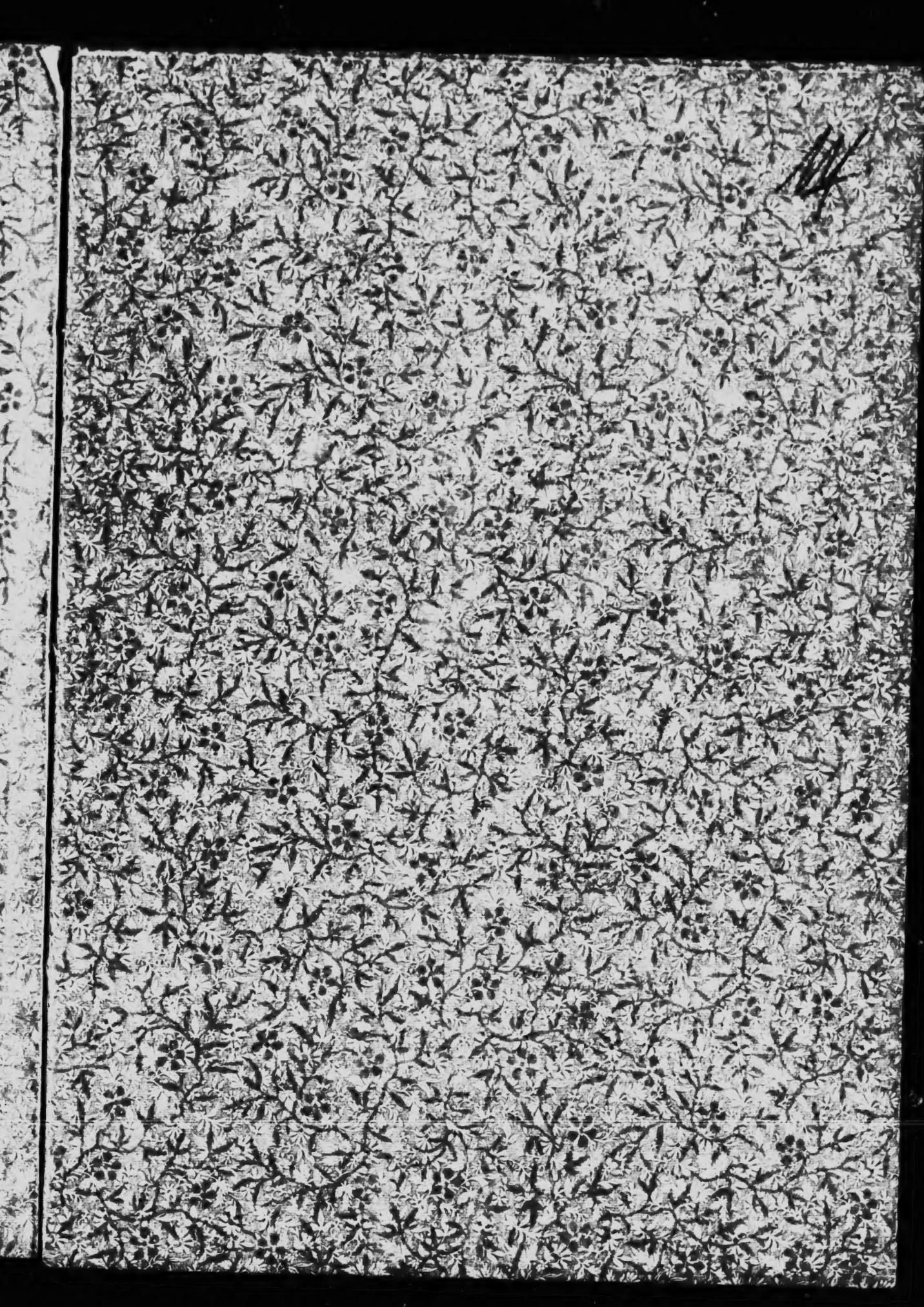
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Geo. Boyd, John

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The Quebec
Battlefields

Montreal, July, 1908

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СЕВИНОВА ОЛЬГА
АДАМАСЬКА

The Quebec Battlefields.

By JOHN BOYD.



(Written by a Canadian on the occasion of the Quebec Tercentenary celebration and dedicated to Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, to whose efforts the success of the national movement for the preservation of the Quebec battlefields is largely due.)



I.

Would that the muse that didst inspire
The poets of old, princes of song,
Would give to one a clarion voice to sing
The glories of these battlefields.
Not in feeble numbers should those deeds be sung
But in resounding notes, giant words of praise,
Befitting both the actors and the scene,
As sang the immortal bard of old,
'These great deeds that are the sacred seeds
And proper subjects of a poet's song.' (1)

II.

Stupendous struggle, the stake an empire,
The conflict through the long drawn summer,
Wolfe daring all upon a desperate chance,
His forces marshalled in the midnight darkness,

The boats descending with their living freight,
The sudden challenge from the height,
The ready answer, the boats pass on
Gliding down to L'Anse du Foulon,
The landing on the cliff crowned shore,
The steep ascent, the sharp surprise
Of Vergor sunk in slumber,
Britain's red ranks across the Plains
In line of battle drawn,
Rush of defenders to meet the foe,
Heroic Montcalm in the lead,
Posting from the camp at Beauport
With fixed look uttering not a word,
The short momentous conflict,
The one fierce volley, the flare of muskets,
The flash of bayonets and the clash of steel,
The deadly charge, the giants' grapple,
An empire lost and won.

III.

Wolfe and Montcalm! Montcalm and Wolfe!
Two heroes of a kindred soul
To whom a People tribute pays,
In life divided but by death united,
To-day in glory one.
This year we dedicate
The far famed field of honor
Where heroes fought and fell
And of their mighty deeds remembrance set.
Not ours to triumph but to honor heroes,
Where all fought nobly all were victors
And none the vanquished,
Wolfe and Montcalm an equal glory share.
With honor crowned to distant ages borne

Their names shall echo with a just renown,
Teaching Canadians of a common soil
That though distinctive they may yet be one
In loyalty to high ideals, of duty nobly done,
Of life unselfish and of death heroic.

IV.

Illustrious Montcalm! Nobleman, scholar and soldier,
Devoted martyr to duty true to thy task,
Longing for loved ones but faithful to France,
Vigilantly watching through all the long summer,
Till on that fatal night thy whole plan ruined
By careless guardians of their country's cause,
Standing at bay, fighting to the last like a hero,
Seeing thy hopes fall but face to the foe
Onborne by the wild rush to the city's gates,
Wounded and dying entering the doomed city.
Noble Montcalm! Thy last thoughts wandering
To well loved Candiac neath the skies of France,
To vales and groves of Languedoc,
No more to see thy childhood home,
No more to meet the dear ones there,
Death robed thee in immortality,
Thy grave fitting receptacle of a soldier's dust,
Heroic Montcalm! So justly styled
The last great Frenchman of the western world.

V,

Intrepid Wolfe! Heroic soul encased in feeble frame,
Youthful in years but aged in service,
Asking to meet fate firmly and to die nobly,
Soldier, patriot and hero thy wish was fulfilled.
Victorious Wolfe! Fallen in the fiery charge,
Thy daring crowned by death,

Still ringing in thy ears the woeful words
Of him who sang in simple strains of sweetness
Lot of the lowly and the pomp of power,
' The paths of glory lead but to the grave.'
Immortal Wolfe! Would that thy ashes too
Might rest beneath Canadian soil
With those of thy great adversary.
England guards the sacred dust
In modest sepulchre lowly stored,
Still all sufficient for such a hero,
Who needs no brass to blazon forth his deeds,
His monument an empire, his fame undying,
His glory ours to guard.

VI.

Honors for the other heroes,
For steadfast Saunders and his seamen
Seconding the general's zeal,
For Bourlamaque and Bougainville,
Friends of their leader and gallant soldiers,
For Murray, Moncton and Townshend too,
For lion hearted Levis, who on the field of Ste. Foye
Redressed the conflict's balance,
And for valorous Vauquelin, who fighting to the last
Refused to strike his colors, a special paean of praise,
Praise for them all and highest praise
For those nameless by fame,
Who fell within the ranks.

VII.

Where fell the mighty dead
Heirs of their valor and their glory gather
Their memory to honor,
Hushed all contention, healed all division,

Peace reigns where discord dwelt of yore,
Upon this sacred ground join hands as brethren,
High sound the paeans in their honor,
With fitting pageant celebrate,
While all the world their fame acclaims,
Erect the tablets to their worth,
Their deeds in sculptured story trace,
While high over all with folded wings
The Angel of Peace shall stand
In benediction on our native land.

VIII.

French Canadians, we hail you as brethren,
Worthy sons of those who fought under Montcalm,
A handful then, now millions in number,
Great not only in numbers but in genius,
Statesmen, soldiers, scholars and poets
To whom we all are the debtors,
Giving the warm blood of France
To the life blood of the Dominion,
In you living again the souls of heroes,
The vanquished of yore now by you victorious,
New France has arisen.

IX.

Britain and France!
Two nations of a mighty past
And still more glorious future,
In lasting friendship bound,
Leading the world in works of peace,
While to the future shall resound
The name of him, Victoria's worthy son,
Who by his efforts crowned
A noble reign of manly worth

By an alliance between two peoples,
Once foes, now friends,
Friends may they be forever,
Edward the Peacemaker!

X.

Republic to the south we salute thee,
Great has been thy progress, mighty thy strength,
Sprung from one stock our glories in common,
Neighbors we are, friends must we be forever,
Britain, France and America! Mighty triumvirate,
Vanquishing the world by victories of peace,
Freedom, equality, fraternity the watchwords,
Splendid, indeed, is the mission.

XI.

Honor to those who gave their aid
To crown this patriotic work,
High praise for 'him who nobly strove (2)
To keep this ground a sacred spot,
The shrine of the heroic dead,
The symbol of a People's soul,
Who by his high example and unwavering zeal
Made possible this movement,
Fitting memorial of a People's pride
In those who nobly fought and died,
Who fought like heroes and like heroes fell.

(1) *Odyssey*, Book 1, Chapman.

(2) Earl Grey, to whom Canada will forever be indebted for the interest which he has shown in the preservation of our historic battlefields.

Two stanzas which were written for and appeared in the Canadian Magazine, for July, under the caption "Wolfe and Montcalm," are incorporated in the above (stanzas III. and VII.).

